



Peter Drake. Possibly a propaganda card created after October 2, 1898 incident. Note the props in the photograph suggesting that the photo was staged: his hat has a sign saying "Mayor," the papers under the hilt of his sword are possibly ballots, and his rifle still has a price tag.

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Wilmington Light Infantry to assemble and his son, Will, was wounded at Fourth and Harnett Streets. It is not known if Terry was a member of the Red Shirts or White Government Union. Also mentioned in the article is a black man, Willis Stevens, also known as "Drake," a man who had been declared insane and who had previously tried to run for Mayor. In May 1897, the County Board of Commissioners agreed to the release of Drake from the county's custody on appeal from attorney Marsden Bellamy. On Bellamy's suggestion, the board purchased shoemaker's tools for Drake to make his own living. Drake promised the board "to go to work" but that the tools remained the property of the county. A news article indicated that Drake had previously tried to claim election as mayor. A letter to the editor followed which asked "Why should the county commissioners make an apporpiration to a 'crazy negro' to get him up in business, when there are numbers of honest white men who are seeking employment without success?" In 1898, white men at the registration site apparently mistreated Drake, leading to Peamon's outburst. During the scuffle, a crowd of blacks gathered, and the outnumbered white men left the precinct. McDuffie, "Politics in Wilmington," 616; *Morning Star*, (Wilmington), October 2, 1898, May 2, 1897; *Wilmington Messenger*, May 4, 1897, October 2, 1898; Minutes of the Board of County Commissioners, State Archives.

In another incident, Frank Thompson was arrested and accused of being the leader of efforts to "incite a riot" in Brooklyn on the Saturday before the election. Thompson, an employee of the Champion Cotton Compress, and other blacks were gathered on the street in Brooklyn near the intersection of Fourth and Nixon Streets around eleven o'clock at night on the Saturday before the election. A Red Shirt who lived in the neighborhood stepped off the streetcar at the intersection and was immediately confronted by the black men who, according to the paper, moved toward the white man "as though to make an attack." The Red Shirt unwrapped his concealed Winchester and then was pelted with rocks from the blacks, among them Thompson, who also apparently brandished pistols. Some of the rocks hit the streetcar behind the man. It was reported that the black men declared "they would stop the cars from running." After Thompson's arrest, the crowd was dispersed by both the police and leading African Americans who were "influential" and "peaceful." After the crowd dispersed, "prominent citizens" investigated the event later in the night and found that blacks had "boasted that their children all had matches and bottles of kerosene, knew how to use them and would run some women out of their homes before morning." True or not, the article in the *Morning Star* became another Democratic tool to intensify fear and anger in Wilmington. Other city papers confused the specifics of the event such as the number of black men at the intersection, what Thompson actually did, and the chronology